adras Information

y month by the Director of Information and Publicity
Fort St. George

"WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" January 1957

8 - JAN 1957

CONTENTS:

	PAGE
well to a Popular Governor - - -	3
- - And Welcome to a Worthy Successor	5
dras will preserve its Unique position	7
ches in the Making	8
nyakumari Our New District—Sri T. Purushotham, M.L.C.	11
et Circus comes to Town	12
cession to Village Officers and Harijan Converts	14
Birth of the Metre	15
ng Celestial "—A Review by Sri R. Rangachari	19
ation in U.S.S.R.	22
Awards for Films	24
Madras City Improvement Trust. Another Year of All Round Progress— . D. Gnanavolivu.	25
elegation visits Madras	27
tion Made Easy: New Implements Devised	28
ges electrified during October 1956	30

ver: Box filling at the match factory at Perambur.

His Holiness Dalai Lama, the spiritual and temporal head of Tibet, was received by Sri A. J. John, Minister K. Kamaraj at the Central Station. (*Bottom*). His Holiness Panchen Lama who arrived the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary Sri W. R. S. Satthianadhan.

Leave taking of a 'family member' Shri Sri Prakasa at the entrance to the plane, taking leave with folded hands and a broad smile.

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8 - JAN 1957

Farewell to a Popular Governor

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" Tamil Nad has maintained all the great traditions of the older day in art and architecture, in music and song, in intellectual pursuits and spiritual aspirations ; and while other parts of our land might have forgotten the ways of long ago, here they are living realities in every sense of the word " observed Shri Sri Prakasa, former Governor of Madras, in a farewell message broadcast from All-India Radio, Madras.

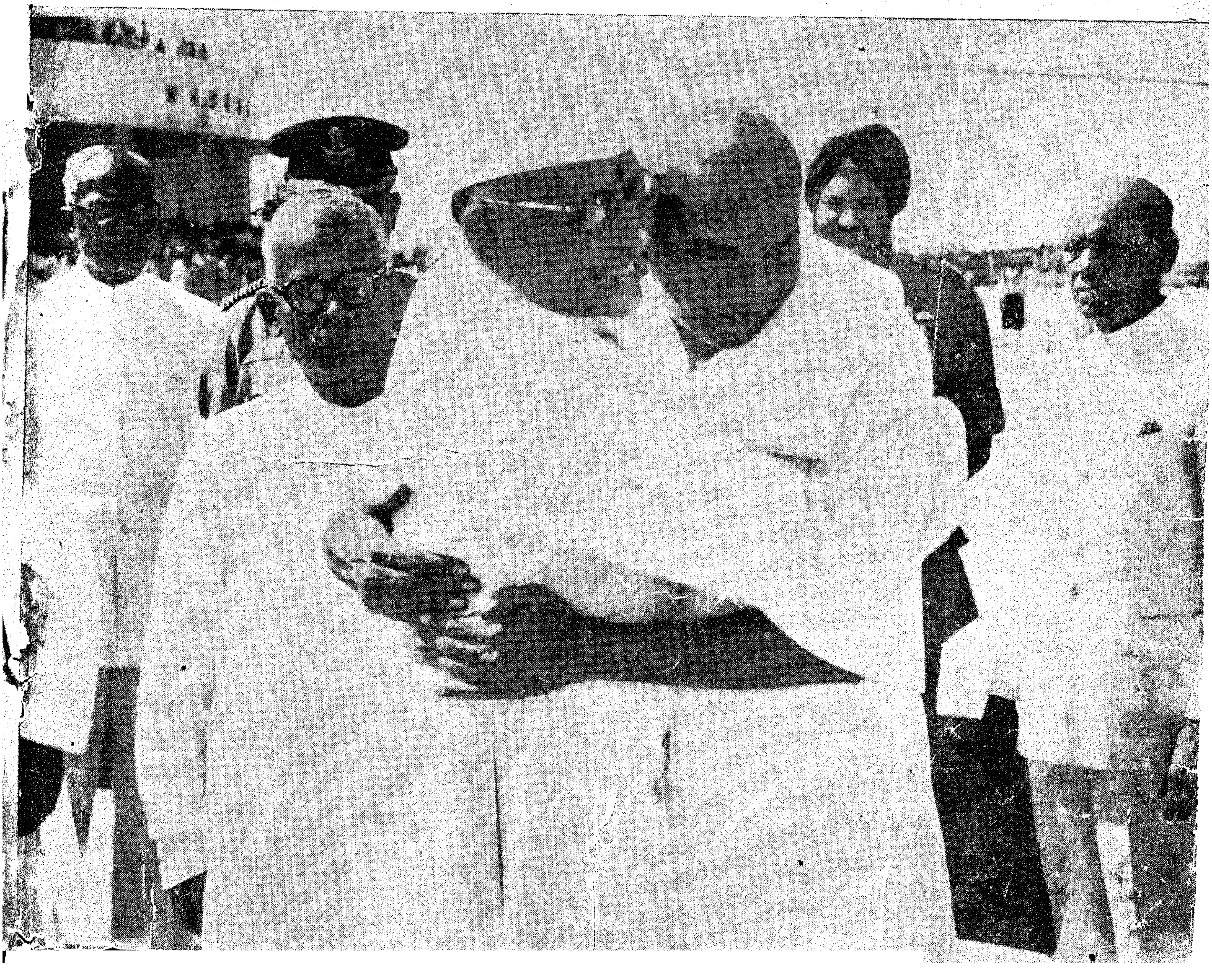
Following is the full text of his message :—

My Brothers and Sisters of Madras,

The time has come when I must part. For fully four years and nine months, I have enjoyed your hospitality to the full. I have received every courtesy and kindness from you, and I can never be sufficiently grateful for all that you have done for me and all that you have meant to me. I came as a totally unknown person in your midst, but you soon accepted me as a member of your own household, and have always given me in abundance your trust and your confidence. I have not been allowed to feel a stranger for a single moment. At this hour of parting, I feel sad indeed.

I should like to tell you how very much I value your friendship, and assure you that I shall always

Above formalities : Shri Sri Prakasa affectionately embraced Sri K. Kamaraj before he left for Bombay.



The two Governors at the airport. Shri Sri Prakasa was seen off at the aerodrome, when he left for Bombay to take over as the Governor of that State, by a large and distinguished gathering. In the picture from the right: Srimathi A. J. John, Sri A. J. John, Governor, Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, Rajaji, Sri C. Subramaniam, Finance Minister, and Sri M. Bhakthavathsalam, Minister for Agriculture.

remember the great State of Madras and all that it stands for. I shall ever deem it one of the highest privileges of my life to serve it in any way I can.

I have learnt much during my stay here that I could not otherwise have done.

I have realised that if ancient India lives anywhere, it lives here; and if one must understand all that the past stood for, he must come here to study and to learn. Tamil Nad has maintained all the great traditions of the older day in art and architecture, in music and song, in intellectual pursuits and spiritual aspirations; and while other parts of our land might have forgotten the ways of long ago, here they are living realities in every sense of the word. I have also been very greatly struck at the simple mode of life of even the highest in the land, which has prevented that cleavage between man and man that is so common elsewhere, and that is the greatest bane of modern life. Here also live a people who work hard, alike in the field and at the desk, in the factory and at the loom; who have a sense of responsibility to society and to themselves; and who continue to contribute to enrich life by their achievement in every department of human endeavour.

Speaking for myself, I must say I have been very deeply touched by the kindness and affection that all manner of men and women, high and humble alike, have spontaneously extended to me. I have received every help and co-operation from members of Government—Ministers and permanent Services alike—and from public men and persons from varied walks of life. I have also seen the spirit of mutual co-operation, social service and civic responsibility among the people at large, that has helped us to weather through many storms and surmount difficult situations, in peace and goodwill. I have seen the life of the State in many facets; and I am full of admiration for the way things are done by which while keeping fast to the old moorings, all improvements made possible by science are fully and carefully utilized, making the future full of hope and cheer. I have no doubt that the spirit that moves the people here, will help in resolving the many problems that still face them, and that they would be able so to transact their affairs, both in private

(*Continued on page* 8)

8 - JAN 1957

Kanyakumari Our New District

SRI T. PURUSHOTAM, M.L.C., Member, Tourist Traffic Advisory Council, Government of India

Seized by a desire to renew my old acquiantance of the territories in South Travancore now transferred to Madras State, I spent a couple of days in that delightful region popularly known as Nanjilnad. Tradition has it that years and years ago the people of that area remained under Nanjil Kuravan, a local chieftain of great valour and repute, and hence the name Nanjilnad. Perhaps it would be more appropriate to say that the place derived the name, because Nanjai crops yielding plenty twice a year are seen all over there to the eyes' farthest limits. The States Reorganization Act has added to Tamilnad the territories comprised in the Agastheeswaram, Thovala, Kalkulam and Vilavankode taluks which have now been constituted as Kanya Kumari district and also territories comprised in the new Shencottah taluk which has become part of Tirunelveli district. The population of the integrated area is roughly 20 lakhs and consist of Nadars, Nanjilnad Saiva Vellalas, Harijans, Moslems and Malayalees. The Vellalas are mostly agriculturists. The people of the integrated area, especially the Tamils, are really happy about the merger with Madras State.

We have the Kodayar irrigation project in the transferred territory and also the one built during Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar's time, viz., Mukkadal reservoir for irrigation. Papanasam project supplies electricity to areas south of Nagercoil. Nagercoil town was first electrified by a private firm of local contractors as early as 1932 and now it is served by the Papanasam Scheme. The most important temples in Kanya Kumari district are Nagarajaswami Temple in Nagercoil, Shiva temple at Suchindram and the Cape temple. Sri N. S. Krishnan the well known actor and comedian hails from Nagercoil. He has put up a Gandhi Stupa at Nagercoil at his own cost. At Cape Comorin (Kanya Kumari) a giant structure has arisen recently at the spot where part of the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi was immersed.

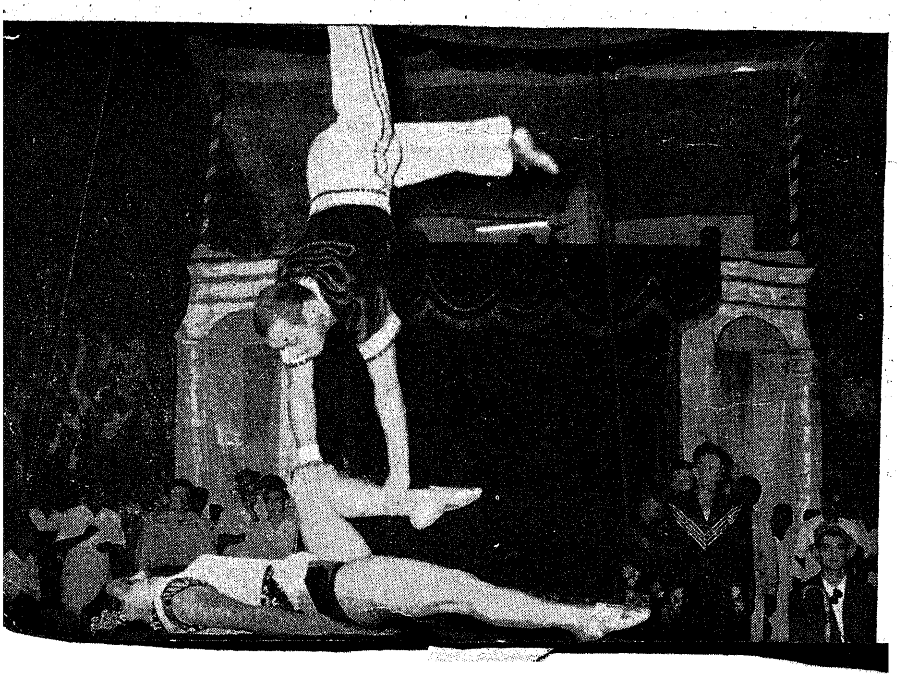
Kanya Kumari district is named after the famous Kanya Kumari Temple at the Cape. Whatever the other attractions of Cape Comorin, it is for its sanctity as a pilgrim centre it has gained its importance. Here is a temple which is the abode of the virgin Goddess Kumari and there is a pretty legend associated with it. Seven miles to the north of the Cape is the famous Shiva Shrine situated at Suchindram, and Lord Shiva the sacred figure of the Puranas, is said to have loved the virgin Goddess at the Cape. It seems a marriage was actually arranged once and when Shiva began walking towards his fiancee's abode, the Lord was stopped by Shri Vishnu, himself transforming into a cock and crowing, heralding the dawn ! Thus the marriage was stopped and Kumari continues as a Kanya (virgin). So goes the story in the legends. The temple of Kumari is a very ancient one. There is a mighty stone wall encasing the shrine and there are dark corridors and pillars of an ornamental nature. On Full Moon days vast crowds of pilgrims cluster around this place for worship and to observe that unique spectacle of the sun-set and moon rise simultaneously at the dusk of the day. On New Moon days too, people come over here for sacred baths in the sea. For the man of historical tastes, Cape Comorin provides a lot of inscriptions on the temple walls. It is not known whether they have been adequately decoded and recorded but I believe much remains to be published as yet. In fact, it is a place of inspiration, a place so beautiful, a spot with a fine temperate climate and one gets a real thrill, on setting foot there. There is a pretty good seashore with rocky pebbles strewn all over on sands. There is a fine bathing ghat where pilgrims bathe in piety. There are two rocks projecting over the waters and they are very attractive. It was on one of these (which is closer to land) that Swami Vivekananda sat upon, spending several hours in meditation. It is today known as the 'Vivekananda Rock'. There is yet another one just a furlong ahead from the banks. To that rock, Lord Kitchner, the one time Commander-in-chief of India, swam away to show his skill as a swimmer and people refer to this rocky projection today as the 'Kitchner Rock'.

Cape Comorin, the land's end of India is a delightful place for tourists. The charms of Cape Comorin were adequately recognized during the Dewanship of Sri C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. He had an eye on tourists' traffic for the State, and he did his best to develop the place to attract foreign tourists as well as internal tourists. A beautiful hotel is there, with all modern convenience, and this is the prime necessity for the visitors. The development of the place as a first rate tourist centre is engaging the attention of the Central Government. Provision has been made in the Second Five-Year Plan for improvement of the Rest House at Cape and for other amenities. The completion of the coastal highway connecting Bombay and Cape would not only attract more tourist traffic, but would also lead to the greater prosperity of the new district of Kanya Kumari.

Scholarships for free Training in Flying

The Government of India have sanctioned 50 flying scholarships for free training at Flying Clubs during the current financial year. Part of Government's efforts to encourage airmindedness among the youth, the scholarship scheme enables qualified candidates to get training at recognized flying clubs free of charge to the extent of 50 flying hours for each trainee. With a view to giving preference to young men, the scholarship scheme is confined to persons who have passed Matriculation examination and are between the ages of 18 and 24, the upper age-limit being relaxable up to 27 years in favour of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes or Tribes and Backward Classes.

•At a party got up to bid farewell to the Soviet Circus troupe on the conclusion of their successful ten-day show in the City, Mr. C. Subramaniam, Minister for Finance said that some of the physical feats shown by the artistes reminded him of "yogic" exercises of ancient days. To a large extent this must have been the reaction of the countless numbers of people who witnessed the feats of the Soviet Circus team, at the Tennis Stadium, Madras, from 2nd December to 11th December 1956. The supreme success of a cultural delegation—as the Soviet Circus team was—lies in evoking the bonds of identity between two peoples separated by accidents of geographical situation. To this extent the visit of the Soviet Circus team was a great success inasmuch as we were not only able to appreciate their skill but also identify our own heritage in their feats. This judgement of their success may be only an intangible and merely dialectical inference palpable only to the discerning minds, but the tangible evidence was there everyday when the stadium was too full to accommodate the large numbers who had to be turned away. So far a sum of Rs. 1,42,252 has been paid into the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, for the benefit of which the Circus shows were held. The gate collections totalled Rs. 1,39,600.



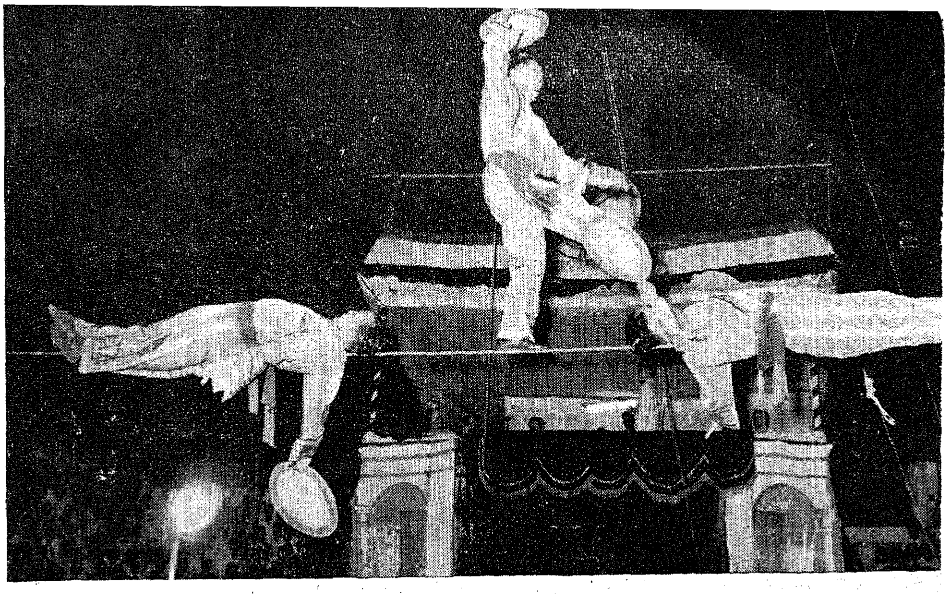
The remarks of the Minister for Education was true in another sense as well. The circus put out by the Soviet team was less of the acrobatic type which we commonly associate with a circus and partaking more of physical feats or chamber sports presented in highly stylized form. It was natural therefore for us to be reminded of our own yogic exercises on seeing through circus. The 50 strong Soviet circus team headed by Art Director M. Alexander Voloshin included seven Tuva tight rope walkers, an Azerbaijan juggler, a weight-lifter, a magician, a small band of acrobats, and the audacious trapezienne Lydia Victorova. Two comic artistes were also in the team

providing the intermezzos between breath-taking performances. M. Voloshin said that these two comedians—M. Vasili Mozel and M. Anisim Savich were celebrated throughout the Soviet Union. Their pantomine and clever antics provoked explosive laughter and were quite comprehensible even without the spoken words.

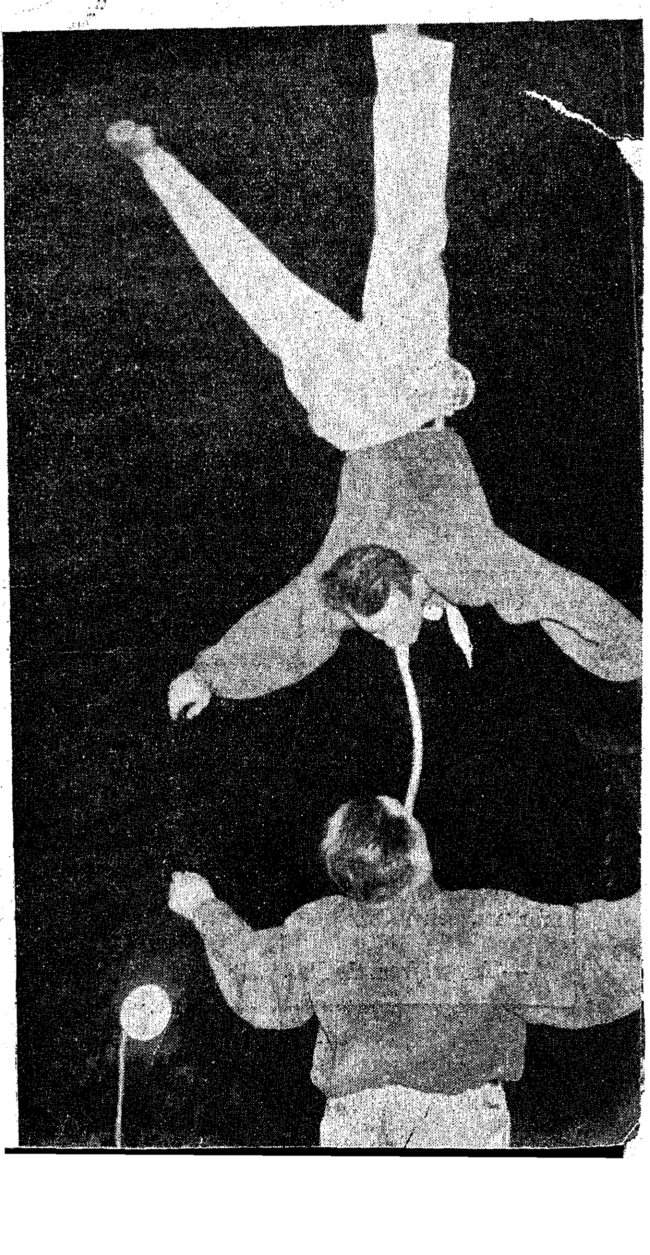
M. Oskal Ool was the captain of the band of tight rope walkers and their nimble feats were bold and agile. The juggler Khosrov Abdullayev performed all his jugglery in his role of a shepperd making his reed and jug spin through unimaginable circuits by sheer force of speed and momentum. The grace and grandeur of the human form it seems, can be seen only in the sports arena when athletes who have devoted a whole life to the building of their body muscles on the correct proportions make their pliant limbs respond to every whim and fancy feat of the chamber sport, gymnast or trapeze. Such was the ineluctable grace seen in Lydia Victorova through all her adroit trapeze acts, and also in Alexander Brilliantov, the weight lifting champion. M. Alexander Voloshin revealed that almost all their gymnasts were graduates of the State Circus School, Moscow, the only institution which has systamatised the training of the body for answering the glamorous call of sports. No wonder then that during the same week at Melbourne the Soviet Olympic team made the world gasp with wonder by winning 12 gold medals in as many hours during a session of gymnastic events.

The circus magician Samyon Rubanov's droll acts made it complete. His piece de resistance, was the burning of his "own daughter" right in centre of the ring and no matter how open-eyed one tried to be the trick was put across so slickly that all one could do was merely to wonder open-mouthed in the end. M. Yuri Bykowski's team of acrobats compelled attention and put up an adequate fare.

The Art Director M. Alexander Voloshin had nothing but praise for the appreciative acclaim he received from all sections of the people of Madras. He was particularly happy that his shows were seen by two successive Governors of Madras. He was impressed by the care and attention to minute details of their comforts bestowed by the influential Reception Committee at Madras.



8 - JAN 1957



Concession to Village Officers and Harijan Converts

Educational and Medical facilities extended

Finance Minister, Sri C. Subramaniam announced certain concessions to village officers and Harijans converted to Christianity in presenting the budget for the year 1957-58 before the Legislature on December 17, 1956.

The Finance Minister said:

" The Government have decided to extend to village officers of all categories all the educational and medical concessions applicable to Non-Gazetted officers of the Government. In addition, village servant of the category of talayari, vetti and nirkatti will be made eligible for full remission of school fees for the education of their children from IV Form to VI Form as in the case of Last Grade Government servants. These concessions will be available from the date of the order even for a portion of the current year. Village officers and servants of settled ryotwari villages and karnams including Triune officers of Estate villages taken over by the Government, will be given travelling allowance for their journeys at consolidated rates according to the distance of their respective villages from the Taluk headquarters. Village headmen of Estate villages taken over by the Government will also be given certain allowances to cover the actual cost of their journeys on duty. The Government hope that these concessions will go some way to meet the genuine grievances of these loyal public servants. The larger questions connected with the reorganization of village establishments and their service conditions will require detailed examination from the administrative and financial angles and will be taken up after the general elections.

Another concession proposed is in respect of Harijans converted to Christianity. Some differentiation is being made between these converts and Harijans and there has been an insistent demand for its removal in respect of educational concessions. The Government have now decided to do away with the distinction and to extend to the converts all the educational concessions applicable to Harijans. "

The Minister stated that the Revised Estimates for 1956-57 showed a revenue deficit of Rs. 379 lakhs and that this deficit was largely due to cyclone relief measures undertaken by the Government. The total cost of all the relief measures was estimated at Rs. 809 lakhs.

Speaking on the budget for 1957-58, Sri C. Subramaniam said :

" The Budget Estimates for 1957-58 provide for a Revenue of Rs. 52,65 lakhs on the basis of existing taxation and an expenditure of Rs. 57,71 lakhs, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 506 lakhs. Many new schemes of expenditure covered by the Plan, have been included as per detailed list appended to the White Paper. Provision has been made only for such new schemes as are expected to be ready for implementation from the very beginning of the next year. Other schemes will be considered and incorporated in the regular Budget for the year, after the elections. The total net provision for new schemes is Rs. 130 lakhs in the Revenue Account and Rs. 248 lakhs in the Capital and other Accounts.

" The new Government will indeed have to consider the ways and means of covering this large deficit in the Revenue Account. About Rs. 2 crores of this deficit are the direct consequence of the recent enhancement in emoluments of Non-Gazetted Officers, School teachers and Local Board servants. It may be true that this enhancement does not give adequate relief to the low-paid employees. However, much we may sympathise with their plight, the House should appreciate that it is beyond the resources of the State Government to do anything more without a substantial measure of Central assistance. Representations have been made to the Government of India, and the subject came up for discussion at the recent meeting of the National Development Council in Delhi. The Union Finance Minister is now considering the matter, let us hope sympathetically. The Finance Commission, now in session, has also been apprised of the position, and further representations will be made when the Commission visits this State early in February. "

On the basis of the very rough assessment now made, the expenditure for the period, November 1956 to March 1957, in the areas that have come from the former Travancore-Cochin State and since constituted into the district of Kanyakumari, is expected to exceed the receipts in this area and is now expected to be about Rs. 84 lakhs, and this will increase when provision is made in due course for new schemes.

—Extract from the Budget Speech.

Rapid progress is expected to be made on the Kundah and Periyar Projects during 1957-58. Rural electrification is also making appreciable headway as could be seen from the fact that about 1,000 villages will be electrified during the current year as against the Plan target of about 500 villages and we hope to maintain the pace in the coming year.

—Extract from the Budget Speech.

The Birth of the Metre

In the fourteenth century, King Henry I of England fixed the yard as a unit of length equivalent to the distance from the tip of his nose to the thumb. About hundred years later Queen Elizabeth decreed that "On a certain Sunday, as they came out of Church, 16 men shall stand in line with the left foot touching one behind the other." The distance they covered was to be the legal rod, and 1/16th of it the legal foot.

Standards of measurement have always been arbitrary. In ancient India 'krosa' literally shouting distance was used to denote distances. The 'yojana' means the distance (about four miles) that can be covered by a chariot without reharnessing of horses.

It is a remarkable coincidence that in looking for standards, men all over the world have used their own limbs as units. Thus we have the 'foot', the 'cubit' (known to us as 'muzham'), the 'balisht', 'angul', etc. Sometimes corn was used; so we have the 'grain' and the 'carat'. The inch itself was defined by Romans as the "Combined length of three barley corns set end to end".

Realising the advantages of uniform standards and their value in promoting national solidarity, Kings have tried from time to time to establish standards but local genius continued to prevail freely, heedless of royal proclamations.

The metric system was born in France at a time when the atmosphere was charged with the spirit of the French Revolution. It was, therefore, necessary to look for units of length and weight free of feudalistic associations. Under the guidance of Talleyrand, scientists set out to evolve a system. Working on a standard of length based on Nature, so that there would be no scope for variation, they chose Mother Earth.

The metre represents the 10 millionth part of a quarter of the earth's circumference (longitudinal). This is capable of verification any where, at any time.

Early History

The idea of evolving a linear standard invariable and universal, can be traced back to the 17th century when Gabriel Mouton, Vicar of Lyons, proposed a comprehensive system having as the basis the length of an arc of 1° of the earth's circumference. The length of that arc would be a *milliare* which would be sub-divided decimally into *centuria, decuria, virga, virgula, decimi*, etc.

It was not, however, till late 18th century that Mouton's suggestions were pursued. In 1790, Talleyrand presented a plan for the uniform system of weights and measures. After choosing the meridian—a circle passing through the North and South Poles—a Commission proceeded to fix the details for the earth measurement. Since it is obviously impossible to measure the entire meridian, it was decided to measure a small portion, viz., the arc between Dunkirk and Barcelona, both at sea level.

Delambre and Mechain were the two engineers chosen for the survey, while Lavoisier started work on a standard weight based on the weight of 1 c.c. of water. The survey was by no means easy. Apart from the nature of work—accurate measurement of the distance between two cities, miles apart—the scientists were harassed by political troubles. The Revolution was in full swing; deprived of ordinary facilities, they could not even work in peace because their signal flags were suspected to denote anti-revolutionary activities. They were even arrested.

However, they completed the work in 1798. The results were checked by several committees. On June 22, 1799, a platinum metre was adopted as the true metre. This is known as the Metre des Archives.

The word *metre* was first used in a report of the Committee of the National Academy in 1793. It referred to the ten millionth part of the quadrant of earth. The word is a derivative of the Latin verb Mē=to measure. Thus was born the metre, the 'earthly' standard of length that was destined to international status.

Other Standards

The plan of reform in weights and measures clearly laid down the need for a direct relation between the units of weight and volume and as a result, that of length. The capacity of a cube, each side measuring a decimetre (10 c.m.) became the standard of measure—viz., litre. The weight of a cubic decimetre (1,000 c.c.) of water was determined accurately. This was adopted as the standard weight—Kilogram.

The standard kilogram was a platinum cylinder; the diametre and height are the same—i.e., 39 mm. This prototype, known as the kilogram des Archives, is the international standard of weight. The metre and kilogram des Archives are maintained in the vaults of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. This Bureau is situated at Sevres near Paris, on territory declared international. It was brought into force by a treaty signed by seventeen countries.

The metre and kilo attained legal sanction on December 10, 1799. The metric system was born.

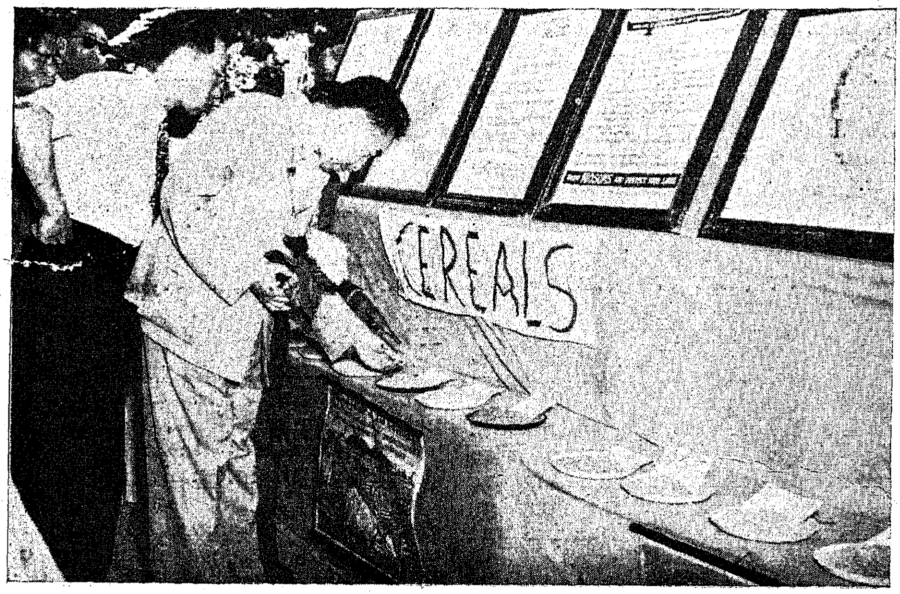
World Tribute

It is a tribute to the vision and courage of the pioneers that they considered their work an "enterprise whose result should belong, some day, to the whole world". The world has responded, perhaps, sooner than they visualised. Within a hundred years, 43 countries changed over to the metric system. More and more are joining; no country has expressed itself against the system.

(*Continued on page* 27)

The Chinese Premier His Excellency Chou en-Lai paid a visit to Thirukazhukunram block and visited an exhibition at Kulipanthandalam village. Sri M. Bakthavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture accompanied him.

'Parambu' used to level fields is one of the many things that attracted the attention of Chinese Premier.



8 - JAN 1957

CHOU EN-LAI

At the village exhibition; many kinds of cereals grown in India and China are similar.

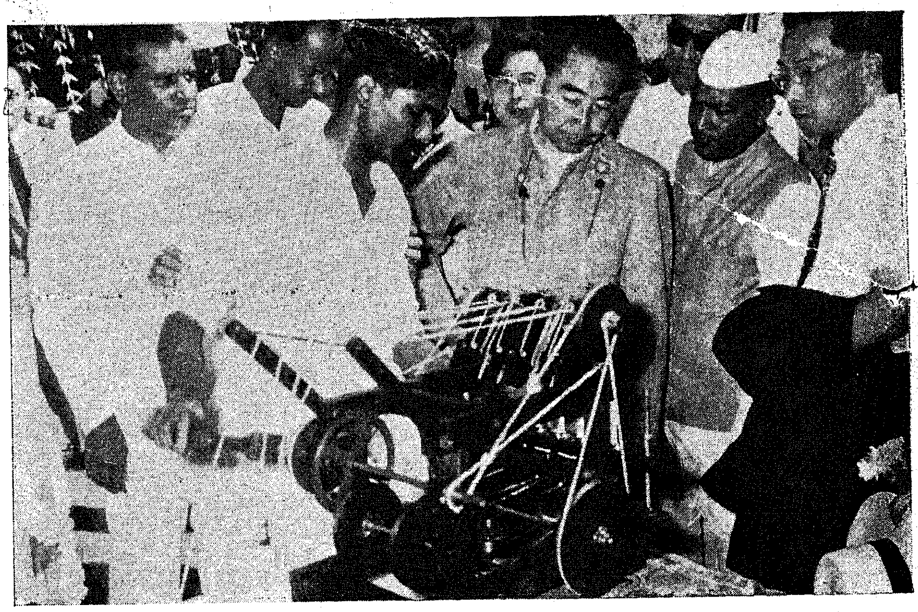
The skill that was traditional. A lump of clay becomes a beautiful pot by the magic touch on the revolving wheel.

The improvement of livestock form part of the work under Community Projects.

8 - JAN 1957

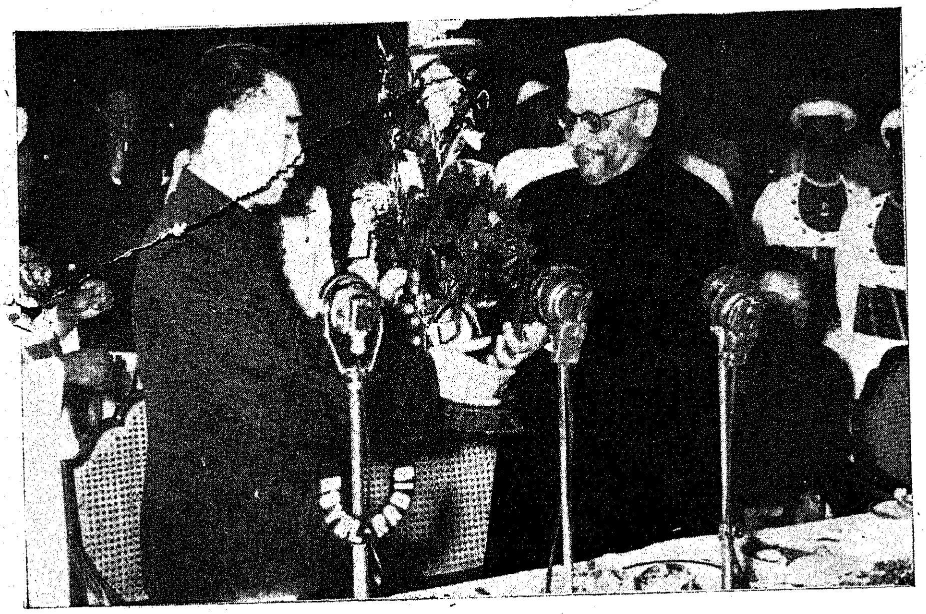
IN THE CITY

One of the Ambar Charkas used in the block to solve unemployment problem is keenly watched by Mr. Chou en-Lai.



To the everlasting friendship of India and China. The toast is proposed during the State Banquet.

The State Banquet was followed by Baratha Natyam recital by Srimathi Kamala Lakshman, deciple of Natya Kala Kesari Sri Vazhuvoor Ramiah Pillai.



8 - JAN 1957

An image of Nataraja was presented among other things to the Chinese Premier, after the State Banquet.

His Excellency Chou en-Lai, Chinese Premier, bidding farewell before he enplaned to Asonsal at the conclusion of his visit. He had learnt the traditional Indian "Namaste."

8 - JAN 1957

"Song Celestial"

"The Gospel of Selfless Action
or
The Gita according to Gandhi."
By Navajeevan Publishing House, Ahmedabad. 392 pages, Rs. 3.

"*A Review*" *by*
SRI R. RANGACHARI,
Deputy Secretary,
Finance Department,
Government of Madras.

The Great Religions of the World have generally one Sacred Book of doctrines or teachings as their foundation, like the Bible for Christianity and the Koran for Islam. Hinduism which is more aptly described as the Eternal Law (Sanatana Dharma) does not stem from any particular Book, but the Vedas in general are taken as the basis for all Knowledge and Belief. Commonly, the Vedas are said to be in two distinct parts—Rituals and Philosophy [the Karma Kanda and the Jnana Kanda (Upanishads)]. Great thinkers like Aroubindo have sought to show that these two parts have a vital connection with each other and that it would be wrong to think of them as being "worldly" or "low" on the one hand, and "unworldly" or "high" on the other. Nevertheless, the Upanishads as a whole may be said to contain the acme of Indian philosophical thought. Schopenhauer, the German Philosopher has said :—

"From every sentence of the Upanishads—of Vedanta—deep, original and sublime thoughts arise and on the whole is pervaded by a high and holy and earnest spirit. In the whole world, there is no study so beneficial and so elevating as that of the Upanishads: They are products of the highest wisdom. It is destined sooner or later to become the faith of the people."

To Max Muller, the Vedantic books (Upanishads) were "like the light of the morning, like the pure air of the mountain—so simple, so true, if once understood". But the Upanishads are no easy reading and they do not all speak with one voice. There arose therefore, a need for a great Teacher to harmonise the sayings of the Upanishads and to simplify and thereby expand their usefulness. This vital need was met by the Author of the Gita-Gita Acharya (Sri Gopalakrishna). As the familiar verse has it: "The Upanishads were the cows, the milker was Gopala, the calf Arjuna (the Representative Man), the sweet life-giving milk was the Gita and the wise are the beneficiaries." This idea has been explained by Sri Mahadev Desai as follows :—

"To vary the metaphor, the meadows of the Upanishads provided for the author of the Gita a rich verdure which was converted into the nectar-like milk of the Gita. For whilst one finds the influence of the Upanishads throughout the Gita and one finds words and whole verses taken from them, they are so digested and assimilated, that one can scarcely think that they went into the making of the rich product." No wonder, therefore, that the Bhagavad Gita has become the One Book for all earnest seekers of the Truth. The word "Gita" means simply a Song, but the Bhagavad Gita is the Song Celestial—the Song of Songs—the Song. There have been many in our land and elsewhere who have attempted to analyse the notes of this Song and classify and label them and in the process have produced disharmony. The apprehension of Truth is bound to vary with each individual according to his make-up, experience, prejudices, and degree of earnestness. Even the greatest of Acharyas has this limitation. For any one today, therefore, that 'his' alone is the true import of the Lord's Teaching and nothing else, is not the mark of wisdom. The condemnation by the Gita Acharya of those who delighting in the letter of the Law hold that there is naught else would apply in spirit even to those who declare that "theirs" alone is the meaning of the Gita and naught else.

In fact, an earnest and practical votary of Truth may gain an Insight which a mere man of learning and tradition may not have. It was in virtue of this Insight, born of a ceaseless endeavour to enforce the meaning of the Gita in his own life, that Mahatma Gandhi wrote his commentary on the Gita—Anasaktiyoga or the Gospel of Selfless Action, for the specific benefit of Gujerati women, the commercial classes and the labourers, who had little or no literary equipment, who had neither the time nor the desire to read the Gita in the original and yet stood in need of its support. The simple yet matchless message of the Gita which he wanted to convey to all was the renunciation of the fruits of action. "This renunciation is the central sun round which devotion, knowledge and the rest revolve like planets. Every action is tainted, be it ever so trivial. How can the body be made the temple of God? In other words, how can one be free from action, i.e., from the taint of sin? The Gita has answered the question in decisive language: "By desireless action; by renouncing fruits of action; by dedicating all activities to God, i.e. by surrendering oneself to Him body and soul." To such as he, "The Gita is not an aphoristic work; it is a great religious poem. The deeper you dive into it, the richer the meanings you get. It being meant for the people at large, there is a pleasing repetition. *With every age the important words will carry new and expanding meanings. But its central teaching will never vary.* The seeker is at liberty to extract from this treasure any meaning he likes, so as to enable him to enforce in his life the central teaching".

Mahadev Desai, who moved for long closely with Gandhiji felt that his Master's book in Gujerati deserved a

wider and a different public-earnest young men and women of India and elsewhere, eager to have their genuine doubts and fears set at rest. So he rendered Gandhiji's work in English and supplemented it with a long introduction entitled "My Submission" as also with profuse notes under the text. It was a labour of love begun by him during his prison life in 1933-34, and continued for years. Unfortunately, his book could not be published in his lifetime, as he died suddenly in prison in August, 1942.

It was published four years later in August, 1946 with a brief foreword by Gandhiji himself. Its unique value has been well recognised by the discerning public, with the result that the Navajivan Trust has now brought out a Fourth and cheap edition. Our thanks are due to the Navajivan Trust for this valuable service. Mahadev Desai has explained the scope of his work in these terms:—

"I lay no more claim to scholarship than does Gandhiji, but I am myself a student—as I hope to remain until my dying day—and it is out of my sympathy for the needs of people of my kind that I have presumed to introduce this additional matter. As I read Gandhiji's translation over and over again, I felt that certain doubts and difficulties that troubled me were likely to trouble other minds too, and that I should offer what explanation I could, about them. In doing so, I have steered clear of all matters of purely scholastic interest, but have referred again and again to the sources–the Upanishads. I have also ventured to draw parallels from the Bible and the Koran and the words of great seers who drew their inspiration from those great books, in order to show how, in the deepest things of life, the Hindu and the Mussalman and the Christian, the Indian and the European, in fact all who cared and endeavoured to read the truth of things, are so spiritually akin. This I thought would help, in however small a measure, to contribute to 'free sharing among religions which no longer stand in uncontaminated isolation'."

It is a delight to read Mahadev Desai's quotations and notes, and no one will fail to profit greatly by a study of his book. The following are stray instances of the parallels which Desai has superbly brought out:—

(i) *Law of Karma—*

"All instincts immature,
All purposes unsure
That weighed not as his work, yet
swelled the man's account;
Thoughts hardly to be packed
Into a narrow act,
Fancies that broke through
language and escaped
All I could never be
All men ignored in me,
This I was worth to God, whose
wheel the pitcher shaped."

(From Robert Browning's
Rabbi Ben Ezra.)

The relentless law of Karma may be viewed as a message of hope that no good effort is lost, that it is carried on from life to life and that one can rise from good to better, even though he may backslide often:—

(*a*) "Neither in this world nor in the next, can there be ruin for him; O, Partha.

No well-doer, oh loved one, meets with a sad end" (Gita).

(*b*) "Know of a certainty that no evil can happen to a good man, either in life or in death."

(Plato)

(*c*) "Then whoso doth good works and is a believer, there will be no rejection of his effort.

Lo! We record it for him."

(Koran)

(ii) *Doctrine of Incarnation*:—

(*a*) "To save the righteous, to destroy the wicked and to re-establish Right, *I am born from age to age.*"

(Gita)

(*b*) "The one secret, the Greatest of all is the doctrine of the Incarnation, regarded not as an historical event which occurred thousands of years ago, but as an event which is *renewed* in the body of everyone who is in the way to the fulfilment of his original destiny". (Patmore).

The Gita ends with the following words of Sanjaya to Dhritarashtra: "Wheresoever Krishna, the Master of Yoga, is, and wheresoever is Partha the Bowman, there rest assured are Fortune, Victory, Prosperity, and Eternal Right".

Mahadev Desai has put in the following note under this Shloka:—

"In one of his speeches of lofty eloquence during the Dandi March in 1930, Gandhiji identified Krishna with the righteousness of the end and Arjuna with the purity of means, and said: "I have faith in the righteousness of our cause and the purity of our weapons. Where the means are clean, there God undoubtedly is present with His blessings and where the two combine, there defeat is an impossibility'."

Should we want a better way and message of hope than this?

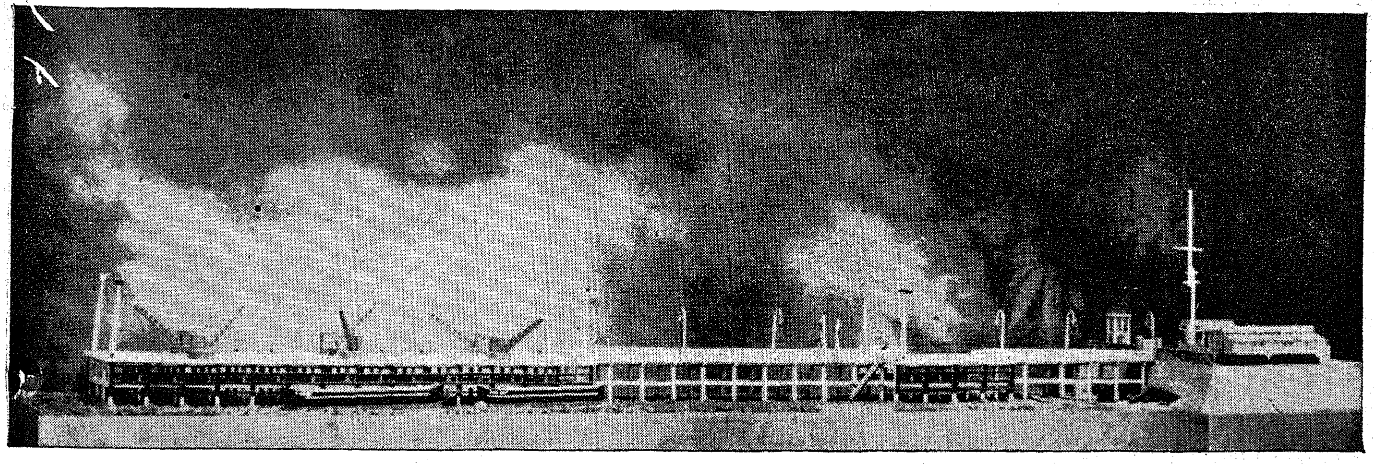
"All *self* abandon *ye who* enter
here."
'Performing action without attachment, man shall attain the
Supreme'.

Edible Uses of Groundnut Oil

The bulk of the groundnut oil produced in the United States of America and European countries is used for edible purposes either as salad oil, or in the manufacture of margarine, lard compounds and vegetable cooking fats along with several other vegetable marine and animal oils and fats. In India, the oil is used for culinary purposes for which the chekku oil is preferred to that obtained in expellers and consequently commands a premium in the market. Considerable quantities are also consumed along with the more costly gingelly oil and rape and mustard oils which are frequently adulterated with the groundnut oil. Another important outlet for groundnut oil is the Vanaspathi industry. Vanaspathy is a vegetable ghee substitute and groundnut oil forms the bulk of the raw material used in its manufacture. Some years back this product used to to be largely imported from foreign countries but with the increased production of the same in India, imports have largely ceased. Vanaspati is manufactured mostly from the groundnut oil by hydrogenation. About 140,000 tons of oil is reported to be consumed by this industry. Margarine and vegetable ghee though they resemble natural butter and ghee in appearance and texture and may have more or less the same amount of fat protein and calorific value, are totally deficient in vitamins. This deficiency is now being made up by the fortification of the artificial product with the necessary vitamins and minerals.

Rs. 35 Lakhs Pondicherry Pier Project

This is how the Pondicherry Pier Project will look like on completion. It is estimated to cost nearly Rs. 35 lakhs including the cost of the land. Designed by Indian engineers, the proposed pier will project 1,200 feet into the sea. The most modern of its kind, it will be one of the longest in India. With a width of 20 feet, it will accommodate two lines of trolley traffic, and will be equipped with the most up-to-date mechanical appliances.



Improved seeds mean better yield and more profits

The use of improved strains of paddy by the Agriculture Department has increased the production by at least 10 per cent over the varieties locally cultivated by ryots in Madras State. In paddy there were 111 strains under distribution through the Department and one more was added during the year 1955-56. The distribution of improved strains were undertaken by the Agricultural extension staff.

During the year the improved strains were multiplied in the breeding and research stations and the pure nucleus seeds were supplied to the primary seed farms in the districts to the tune of 254 tons. Four thousand one hundred and seventy-three acres of Primary Seed Farms were raised, procuring nearly 378 tons. The seeds procured from Primary Seed Farms used to be further multiplied in Secondary Seed Farms under department control. This was found to entail large expenditure and in consequence it was not possible to increase the area to the extent required to replace the area under local varieties and renew the seeds in the whole area once in 4 or 5 years. Hence the system of Village Seed Farms was organised and in this system Primary Seed Farm Seeds will be distributed to selected ryots through the Agricultural Associations in villages at the rate of one pound for every acre under the crop in the village. These selected ryots multiply these seeds in their farms which are named as Village Seeds Farms. The departmental extension staff supervise the seed production and arrange for its exchange with the local seeds of other ryots in the village. By this method it is intended to cover the entire village as quickly as possible, saving labour and expense involved in procuring seeds from Secondary Seed Farms and more than anything else making the better seed available within each village at a low cost. During the year 87,831 acres have been cultivated under Village Seed Farms Scheme and 10,497 tons were exchanged.

Thus the total area covered with improved strains through Primary and Village Seed Farm Seeds is 542,700 acres estimated to yield over 54,270 tons of additional production valued at Rs. 162·8 lakhs.

Millets

In millets there were 49 strains under distribution and two were added during the year. These were also multiplied on the Government Farms initially and the nucleus seeds were further multiplied in Primary and Village Seed Farms as in the case of Paddy. Three hundred and ten tons of millet seeds were procured and distributed during the year under Primary and Village Seed Farms Scheme covering 14,792 acres. The improved seeds procured and exchanged could be grown over an area of 67,542 acres accounting for an additional production of 6,784 tons of Millets.

Pulses

About 4,937 lb. of improved seeds of pulses were distributed during the year. These are expected to cover 411 acres resulting in 27·5 tons of additional production.

An enthusiastic welcome to Indian children : A gigantic screen painting at the entrance to Soviet Educational Exhibition, Examination Hall, Marina.

8 - JAN 1957

EDUCATION IN U.S.S.R

An interesting and instructive exhibition which showed the development and present state of public education in Russia was thrown open to the public in the second and third week of December at the Examination Hall in Marina. Sri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Education, declared open the Exhibition. The Governor of Madras, Sri A. J. John, and prominent educationists visited the exhibition.

A large number of people including students and pupils of City colleges and schools attended the exhibition and showed keen interest in the working of the scientific apparatus like cathode ray tubes, pulleys and other models used in Soviet Secondaryschools. The artistic models also attracted attention.

The backwardness of Soviet Republic before 1914 Revolution and phenominal rise in standards in the subsequent years were depicted well by charts, diagrams and photos. The exhibition also gave general idea about how the State controlled education is administered under the present set up.

The charts on the development of education during the pre-revolution days showed that the broad masses of the population had no access to education. More than seventy-five per cent of the population could neither read nor write. Four-fifths of the children did not attend schools.

It is now claimed that illiteracy was completely liquidated among the working population. Forty-eight nationalities acquired alphabets for the first time in their history. The number of pupils and students embraced by all categories of education amounts to five crores.

Mr. Mikhail I. Kondakov, Exhibition Director, said that the children were taught up to Secondary standard in the native language and co-education was compulsory everywhere both in general education and specialised schools.

"During the last five years we have borrowed from the Public and the Government of India about Rs. 96 crores in all, as against which, we have invested during the same period about Rs. 100 crores made up of Rs. 40 crores on electricity projects, Rs. 25 crores on irrigation works, Rs. 5 crores on buildings, Rs. 19 crores on loans to local bodies and cultivators and about Rs. 11 crores on various other forms of productive capital outlay. Some of these works have yet to come into productive use and we may have some temporary embarrassments, but nobody can challenge the wisdom of these investments and our inherent financial stability. That indeed is the main reason for the very hearty response we have been receiving from the general public on the annual State Loan."—*Extract from the budget speech delivered by Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture, in the Madras Legislative Council.*

There were three types of general education schools in the Soviet Union.

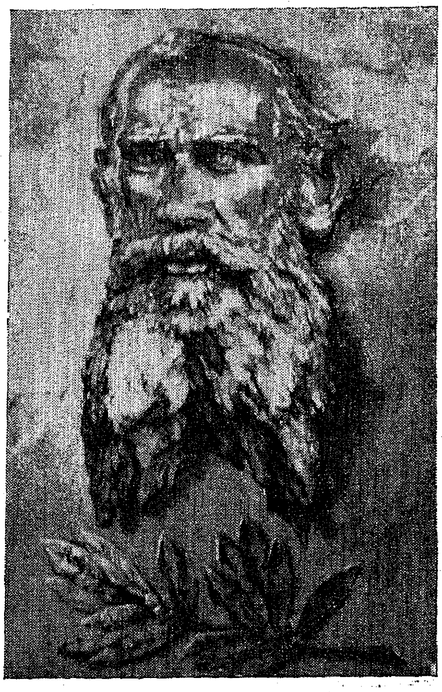
(1) Elementary school for children 7–10 with a four-year course of study.

(2) Seven-year school for children aged 7–13.

(3) Secondary school for children aged 7–16 with a ten-year course of study.

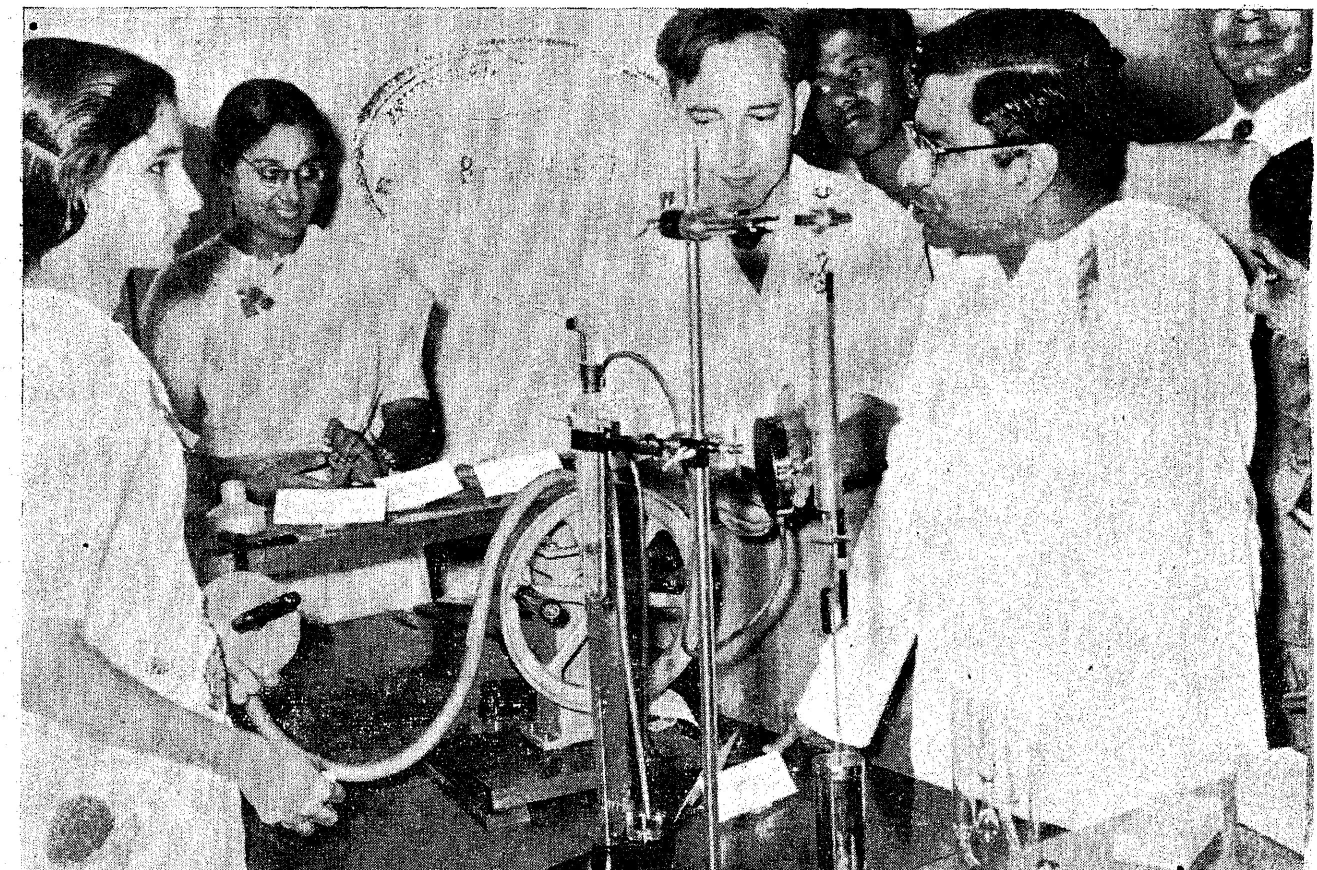
Pre-school education extends to children aged 3 to 7 and is conducted at Kindergartens and at winter and summer playgrounds.

The models used at kindergarten formed an interesting part of the exhibition.



A picture of Leo Tolstoy at the exhibition drawn by a teen ager of the Soviet Union.

Lady students from City Colleges who helped the Soviet Representatives in running the exhibition explaining the working of an apparatus to the Finance Minister.



Charts in the Soviet exhibition showing the children in Kindergartens.

State Awards for Films

In accordance with the decision to hold the State Film Awards function early in the year, India's best films in 1956 will be selected for the award of President's and Prime Minister's medals in April 1957.

The President's gold medal will be awarded to the best all-India feature film and the best Indian documentary film. The President's silver medal is for the best feature film in different languages. The best children's film will receive the Prime Minister's gold medal.

The scheme of State awards for outstanding Indian films was instituted by Government of India in 1954 to encourage production of films of a high aesthetic and technical standard and educational and cultural value.

To select the three best feature films in each language, Regional Committees will be formed, as in previous years, in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

In each language, the first in order of merit will receive the President's silver medal, and the next two Certificates of Merit.

Preliminary lists of children's films and feature films are being drawn up by the Regional Officers of the Central Board of Film Censors, who have an opportunity of seeing all the films. Individual producers are, however, free to enter names of their films, which they would like the Awards Committee to consider. Entries in this regard should be addressed to the Regional Officers of the Board at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, before January 15, 1957. The entries will not require any fee.

A Central Committee of Awards will select from among the films recommended for regional awards the best feature film for the President's gold medal and the best children's film for the Prime Minister's gold medal and two films under each of these categories for Certificates of Merit.

Documentary films will be judged separately and a preliminary selection will be made by the Film Advisory Board, Bombay. Entries for this purpose should be addressed to the Chairman of the Board before January 1 1957.

The Committee will have the discretion not to recommend an award in any language or category, if they feel that none of the films submitted are of the requisite standard. All films certified for exhibition between January 1, 1956 and December 31, 1956, will be eligible for consideration.

The Madras City Improvement Trust:

Another year of all round Progress

CAPT. D. GNANAOLIVU, Chairman, The Madras City Improvement Trust

The year 1955-56 has turned out to be an important one in the nine year's history of the Madras City Improvement Trust. It was another year of all round progress in all directions. As reported last year, the State Government, when declaring that the Trust would continue permanently, changed the financial bases of the Trust, and the ways and means of its operation. Instead of receiving an annual subsidy of Rs. 2½ lakhs from the Corporation and a like sum from the Government, in the year under report the Trust received instead only grants and loans from the State and Union Governments with permission to charge up to 15 per cent supervision charges on all the works turned out by it. This fundamental modification in the working of the Trust has resulted in more funds being placed at its disposal in more work being turned out by it, and in an amount almost equal to the previous subsidies being received in the form of supervision charges. The permanent annual income of the Trust also, by way of house rents and lease rents increased from Rs. 90,000 to about Rs. 1,02,000 during 1955-56.

Low Income Group Housing

For the first time, the Union Government sanctioned to the Trust Rs. 20 lakhs initially and then an additional Rs. 10 lakhs as part of their Low Income Group Housing Scheme, and a further amount of Rs. 3·24 lakhs for buying land and developing it as middle-class house-sites. Despite considerable difficulty in securing steel and cement, the Trust staff took on hand the fairly heavy task of building under the above scheme 375 houses, with enthusiasm and zest. Though the progress got slowed down for about two months due to lack of cement, still, on the whole considerable progress on the scheme was achieved. (The first house under the scheme was handed over to the hire purchaser on 10th August 1956, and by September about fifteen houses were handed over. In October 1956, another batch of forty houses were completed, and the entire scheme may be put through by February 1957 at the latest.)

Out of the Rs. 3·24 lakhs given by the Union Government to develop house plots, 29 house-sites in Trustpakkam, St. Mary's Road, 27 in Trust Square, Aiyanavaram, and 27 in C.I.T. Nagar (Opposite to the College of Physical Education), were provided. In the last area, half and one ground plots will also be avilable for poor income groups.

Programme of the Coming Year

During the coming year 1956-57, as part of the Second Five-Year Plan Programme, the City Improvement Trust is expecting from the Union Government Rs. 10 lakhs for buying and developing lands for house-sites, and Rs. 20 lakhs for low income group houses to be sold on 20 years instalment system. The houses now under construction under the scheme cost Rs. 8,000 each, exclusive of the developed site supplied by the Trust (cost of the site ranging from Rs. 1,750 to about 8,000 each, as selected by the allottees). For the next year, it has been proposed that houses may cost only about Rs. 6,000 each, and that the Trust may be permitted to build some of these houses also on sites owned by the applicants.

It is also a matter for gratification that the State Government have announced certain loans to the City Improvement Trust during the coming year, out of which Rs. 4 lakhs have been given to enable the Trust to build forty or fifty more middle-class houses on Government lands in its possession. These will be rented out, thereby increasing the permanent resources of the Trust. The Trust already possesses 170 such houses rented out to the public, and also about 100 *pucca* hutments. It is expected that these efforts of the Union and State Governments will result, in due course, in improving the middle-class housing position in Madras City to a certain extent.

Clearing the Sore Spots

The biggest problem facing the Trust and the Corporation is that of improving the numerous slums which are centres of congestion, insanitation and the human unhappiness in this otherwise fair and spacious City of Madras. During the short period of its existence, the Trust has improved and cleared six slums so far, in the course of which it has rehabilitated about 1,200 slum-dwelling families. Such rehabilitation has been largely on the lines since laid down by the Union Government, i.e., in a regular layout with all amenities, with permission to construct their own huts, and, in about 150 cases *pucca* tenements in crowded areas. As is wellknown there are about 320 slums in Madras City to-day. About 56,000 families are dwelling in them, with a population of nearly 260,000 as against 1,600,000 the total population of Madras. In addition about 7,000 families of pavement dwellers, with a population of about 22,000 are reported to live in this City without any roof over their heads. The comprehensive scheme of the Madras Corporation, costing about Rs. Five crores, has been pending for the last two or three years. Last year an understanding was arrived at, approved by the Government, whereby the Madras Corporation would improve all the slums—about 60 per cent of the total—lying north of the river Cooum, and the Trust is to tackle the City's remaining 40 per cent of the slums located south of the river, when the whole scheme is sanctioned and funds allotted. After convening two or three high level conferences, the State Government instructed the Trust to go forward with slum improvement work in anticipation of receiving necessary finances from the Central and

(*Continued on page* 32)

8 - JAN 1957

A delegation of U.K. economists and financial commentators invited by the Union Government were in Madras in the last week of November. They were received at the airport by Sri T. M. S. Mani, I.C.S., Lignite Officer, and Sri K. Diraviam, Director of Information and Publicity.

The Finance Minister took great pains to make the U. K. economists to appreciate the Indian point of view and the financial soundness of India.

The Finance Minister Mr. C. Subramaniam with Mrs. Barbara Wright, a member of U.K. delegation better known as Mrs. Barbara Wootton.

The U.K. delegation of economists were entertained by Government of Madras to tea followed by a dance recital by Kumari E. V. Saroja and party.

U.K. Delegation Visits Madras

A high power delegation of Economists and Financial Commentators from the United Kingdom were in Madras between November 30 and December 3, 1956. This delegation was invited by the Government of India to visit our country with a view to see the progress of the First Five-Year Plan and to gather first-hand information regarding our economic and financial policies.

The members of the delegation were (1) Mr. Roland Bird of the 'Economist', London; (2) Mr. Duncan Burn of the 'Times' London; (3) Mr. Andrew Shonfield of the 'Financial Times', London; (4) Mrs. Barbara Wright (better known as Mrs. Barbara Wootton) of Bedfort College, London; (5) Mr. J. Macartney-Filgate of the Lazard Bros., London, and (6) Mr. Paul Bareau of the 'News Chronicle', London.

The delegation during its short stay in the State held free and frank discussion with the Representatives of Industrial and Commercial Communities at Madras and Coimbatore. The role of Private Sector in the industrialisation of the country and the effects of Nationalisation of Life Insurance Companies on the resources of Private Sector formed part of the discussion.

The State's Finance Minister Mr. C. Subramaniam, spent long hours in earnest discussion with the financial commentators, in an effort to impress on them the enormous beway yet to be made by the country, and stressed in particular the role of Madras in the country's economy. The guests were entertained to tea by the Finance Minister.

The members of U. K. delegation visited Integral Coach Factory completed under First Five-Year Plan and later motored to Neiveli to have first hand knowledge of the Rs. 60 crore Lignite Project. They also had a glimpse of cultural past of South India when they visited Mahabalipuram on their way to Neiveli.

(*Continued from page* 15)

Even in the United Kingdom and United States of America, the system is legally reorganized; the national standard in the United States of America is the metre and kilo; the yard and pound used in daily commerce are defined in terms of the metre and kilo. In the United Kingdom too, the metric system is legal. The adoption of the system in the United Kingdom and United States of America is however, held up because of certain practical difficulties caused by vast industrialization solely on the foot pound system.

Whatever be the difficulties, scientists and statesmen are convinced that the metric system is bound to prevail uniformly throughout the world. Lord Kelvin, the scientist, has supported it. The Board of Trade in Britain declared, as recently as 1951, "that a change from imperial to metric for all trade purposes is sooner or later inevitable and that the long-term advantages which would flow from an organized change in the near future would far outweigh the inconveniences of the change itself".

Thus, country after country is justifying the impassioned claim of Lavoisier, the scientist: "Never has anything more grand and more simple, more coherent in all its parts, issued from the hand of men".

8 JAN 1957

Cultivation Made Easy: New Implements Devised

The Agriculture Department have devised a number of manually and power operated implements to make cultivation easy and more profitable. Details of machinery used by Japanese farmers who are experts in the paddy cultivation are also given in the following article.

Bullock drawn pump with circular driving gear.—During 1954–55 a bullock-drawn pump was designed by the department. It consists of a plunger pump connected to a pair of bullocks going up and down on a sloping ramp like an ordinary country mhote. This pump gave a discharge of 3,000 gallons per hour with a maximum draught of 170 lb.

During working of the pump it was noticed that much time was wasted during the idle stroke, i.e., while the bullocks were going up in the reverse direction and also strain on the animals during their reverse motion. Hence it was proposed to have a driving gear with an unidirectional motion for the animal and also to reduce the time wasted during the idle stroke (i.e., down-ward stroke of the plunger). Consequently a circular type of driving gear for single-bullock operation was evolved in this section.

A completed unit has been erected at the Agricultural Research Station, Aduthurai, and it gave a discharge of 2,000 gallons per hour with a single bullock. The conventional mhote would give only 1,500 to 1,800 gallons per hour with two animals. Another modified unit to make the construction simpler and cheap has been erected at the workshop compound and it is also working satisfactorily. The draft obtained with these pumps was only 100 lb. The performance of these pumps were demonstrated to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, and the members of the public. They were very much impressed by their performance. The unit costs about Rs. 350. Further work is being continued to make the construction still cheaper so that it may be within the reach of an average ryot and to increase the discharge if possible.

Fertilizer Placement Unit

A single-row fertilizer placement unit was designed and manufactured for the row crops like cotton. It consists of a hopper with an agitator-*cum*-ejector geared to the wheels to ensure free and uniform flow of the fertilizer. Provision was made for covering the fertilizer placed by a miniature bund former attached in the rear of the unit. The while unit was capable of being pushed by a man. This unit was tried at the Agricultural Research Station, Koilpatti.

During the trials, certain modifications were found necessary. It was not economical to have a single row and there should be at least four rows and the provision should be made for hitching the implement to a pair of bullocks. The belt drive should be replaced with a gear or chain drive to get a positive transmission of motion and the rate of flow of fertilizer should be reduced a little. The above modifications are now being attended to and the unit will be again tried after the completion of the modifications.

Power-operated paddy thresher.—This is a Japanese type of paddy thresher with built winnowing and sieving attachment. This machine was designed and fabricated in Departmental workshops.

It consists of a Japanese type of thresher for threshing paddy and a reciprocating sieve with a blower for ejecting out the straw and separating out the paddy. The threshed paddy is bagged through a spout at the side; this unit will be tried during the next harvesting season viz., December.

Japanese plough.—A Japanese pattern plough for rice land was fabricated. This is very similar to the Melur plough but with a screw arrangement for adjusting the depth. There is also provision for horizontally displacing the plough with a view to increase or decrease the width of the plough. The Japanese appear to use the plough with a single animal.

This was tested in the wet lands of the Central Farm, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, both for single-bullock and double-bullock operations. A single bullock was not able to pull this plough and with the double bullocks the maximum depth obtained was only 3″. Hence further trials with this plough was discontinued.

Trial of Japanese Rice Hullers.—Two of the Japanese Rice Hullers, viz., Cacoco Rice Huller Type B and Cacoco power-operated rice huller, were demonstrated and tested in the Community Project areas of the State. They were also exhibited during the Fruit Show at Coonoor and Flower Show at Ooty and demonstrated to the Health Officers of the State during their Annual Conference at the Rajaji Hall, Madras.

Power-operated rice huller.—This was demonstrated at Kumbakonam on 9th November 1955 in the presence of the District Agricultural Officer, Kumbakonam, Assistant Marketing Officer, Tiruchirappalli, Superintendent Agricultural Research Station, Aduthurai and the leading mill owners of Kumbakonam. Five bags of sirumani paddy was hulled and the output was recorded—

Output 458 lb. of paddy per hour.

Percentage of yield 74 per cent of paddy.

Unshelled paddy 3 per cent of shelled rice.

The hulling was satisfactory with no breakages. But after 15 minutes operation, the black rubber rollers get heated up and imparted black colour to the hulled rice. The huller just removes the husk and leaves the bran portion of the rice in tact.

Bag holder.—Most of our agricultural produce are stored in gunny bags.

- - - And Welcome to a Worthy Successor

A seventeen-gun salute heralded the swearing in of the sixty-three-year old Sri A. J. John as the Governor of Madras State on December 10, 1956, at Rajaji Hall. The Chief Justice of Madras, Sri P.V. Rajamannar, administered the oath of office to the new Governor in the presence of distinguished invitees including Ministers, Judges, high officials and prominent persons.

On December 9, Sri A. J. John and Srimati John who arrived by train from Ernakulam were given a warm reception by a large gathering at the Central Station. Shri Sri Prakasa, the out-going Governor and the Chief Minister Sri K. Kamaraj received the Johns.

Sri A. J. John, our new Governor, who was born in July 1893 at Thalayolaparamba near Vaikom in Kerala is no stranger to Madras State. He was graduated from St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, in 1917 and two years later took his law degree at Madras. After practising in Parur and Alleppey, Sri John enrolled himself as an Advocate in Trivandrum High Court.

Sri John was elected unopposed to Travancore Legislative Council in 1925

The Johns : Sri A. J. John with Srimati John. This picture was taken before Sri A. J. John was sworn in as Governor.

Sri A. J. John being sworn in as the Governor of Madras State by the Chief Justice of Madras, Sri P. V. Rajamannar, at Rajaji Hall.

from Vaikom Constituency and was a member for three years. In 1937, he was elected to Travancore Legislative Assembly from Vaikom-*cum*-Kottayam Constituency and in the following year was elected as the President of the Travancore State Congress.

The State Congress was declared an unlawful assembly by the then Government and hence its President Sri John was arrested, convicted and sentenced to undergo eighteen months' simple imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 1,500. Six weeks afterwards, he was again arrested and put behind bars for a week before the case against him was withdrawn. In the 1944 election to Travancore Assembly, his nomination papers were rejected on the ground that he was a convicted person.

In 1948 elections, Sri John was elected to Travancore Assembly unopposed and was also chosen Speaker unanimously. In the same year, he joined the State's Cabinet as Finance Minister and continued in that position even after Travancore-Cochin State integration in 1949, until 1951.

In 1952, Sri John who was elected to the Travancore-Cochin Assembly from Poonjar Constituency, as leader of the Congress Legislature Party, headed the Ministry until 1954 when the Assembly was dissolved. He was again elected from the same constituency and was Minister in 1955 Congress Ministry headed by Sri P. Govinda Menon. The Ministry resigned early this year when the Assembly was dissolved and Travancore-Cochin was placed under the President's rule.

8 - JAN 1957

Madras will Preserve its Unique Position

New Governor's Message to people

"Though Madras has now shrunk into a State with fifty thousand square miles and a population of thirty millions, its adherence to its own ancient traditions and culture will render it possible to preserve its unique position in the map of India," said Shri A. J. John, Governor of Madras, in a message to the citizens of the State broadcast from All-India Radio, Madras, immediately after assuming office.

"Tamilnad," he added, "is always known for its robust commonsense and hard work. Success never fails to bless such people."

Following is the full text of the Governor's message :—

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

I must thank, at the outset, the All India Radio for their kindness in affording me this opportunity to speak to the people of Madras. It is difficult for me to convey, in adequate language, my thanks for the very warm welcome that has been given to me by the people of this great State on my assumption of office as Governor.

I deem it my first duty to offer my tribute of praise and admiration to my immediate predecessor in office, Shri Sri Prakasa, who has endeared himself to the people of Madras, identifying himself with all good causes and problems of the State. I hope he will carry away good memories of the State, and I wish him all success in his new assignment as Governor of Bombay.

I come from the neighbour State of Kerala and at the very outset I convey the greetings and good wishes of the people of Kerala—so patently expressed in all the receptions accorded to me in Kerala—to the people of Madras.

No Stranger

I am no stranger to Madras. I had my college education in St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappally, and my law studies in the Madras Law College. Though I am not a Tamilian myself, I have got very many Tamilians among my friends and colleagues. In the great struggle for freedom under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, we all worked together in close co-operation and mutual understanding, irrespective of boundaries of States or differences of languages, towards the cherished goal.

When I arrived in Madras the other day, I felt, and I still feel, that I am in very familiar surroundings. In fact, believe me when I say that I feel quite at home in Madras. This high office which I have now been called upon to take up would afford me further opportunities to get closer to my countrymen of this State. It will be my earnest endeavour to study and understand the problems that arise in this State and try to help as far as it lies in me to solve them with the co-operation of one and all of you. Madras has always built up high traditions, and it needs no saying that illustrious sons of the State distinguished themselves in every department of human endeavour like philosophy, literature, politics, art, culture, industry, to mention only a few. It should not, therefore, be very difficult for the people of this State to help in finding solutions to the various problems that confront us to-day and might arise in future.

Though Madras has now shrunk into a State with fifty thousand square miles and a population of thirty millions, its adherence to its own ancient traditions and culture will render it possible to preserve its unique position in the map of India. The recent changes consequent on the realignment of States have added to its linguistic homogeneity which will be an invaluable incentive to the people to make rapid progressin developmental activities. Tamilnad is always known for its robust commonsense and hard work. Success never fails to bless such people.

The Second Five-Year Plan envisages all-round development in all departments of life, and our objectives can be achieved only by co-operative efforts of the Government and the people of the State on the one hand and of the Centre and the States on the other. The sister States of Madras and Travancore-Cochin had already established a tradition of goodwill and co-operation in the past. Not only the geographical contiguity of Madras and Kerala but also the close similarity of the two languages, Tamil and Malayalam, would help to a large extent to ensure the continuance of mutual co-operation and goodwill which are absolutely essential for the progress and development of both these States.

A Privilege and an Honour

I consider it a privilege and an honour to preside over the destinies of this great State. I approach my tasks with the zeal of a pilgrim and humility of a servant with a view to contributing my humble share, however small it be, towards the prosperity and welfare of its people. The moment I was sworn in as Governor, I have dedicated myself to the services of the people of this State. Your good wishes and blessings will always be the most potent factor which will give me the requisite strength and courage to carry on the onerous duties which our Rashtrapathiji and our beloved Prime Minister have been pleased to place on my shoulders. With the co-operation and goodwill of my sympathetic and understanding colleagues in the Cabinet, I look forward fervently to carry on the traditions of my predecessors in office as best I can. My best wishes to the people of the Madras State.

Jai Hind.

MATCHES IN THE MAKING

Production of hand-made matches and leather articles are the two small scale industries recommended for development in Madras State, in view of their capacity to absorb a large numbers of under-employed workers. While as many as 100 cottage units, giving employment for 50 women in each for production of matches are proposed to be established in strategic centres of the State, the biggest single unit has been established in the industrial suburb of the city to offer employment to as many as 850 women belonging to the lower middle-calss families. The Government Order sanctioning the unit specifically lays down that the factory is intended to offer employment to the wives of Police constables and wives of employees in factories and other institutions and disabled persons from different parts of the City. Enforcement of this proviso is watched by a Recruiting Board headed by a Lady Social Worker, the present incumbent being Shrimathi Manjubashini.

The present production of hand-made matches in the State is of the order of 1·6 crores gross per year providing employment to about 900 persons for every 5 lakhs gross matches produced. The newly installed Government Match Works at Perambur is capable of producing 1,650 gross per day, roughly 5 lakhs gross per year. At present only 200 gross "Sudar" matches—the trade name of the factory's product—are being turned out for sale every day. The half-anna match of 40 sticks is at a premium in the market and this variety naturally is being turned out in large numbers, though the de luxe variety costing one anna per box of 60 sticks are also being produced. In the de luxe variety the sticks are impregnated with a chemical which prevents the stick from burning into cinders when the lighted match is put out. The risk of causing fire through negligent use of matches is obviated in this variety. This Rs. 5·62 lakhs scheme is run as a departmental venture by the department of Industries and Commerce assisted by a Board of Management. The shrewd caution and business acumen of a private enterprise is imparted to this Board by the election of a Match factory proprietor, as one of its members.

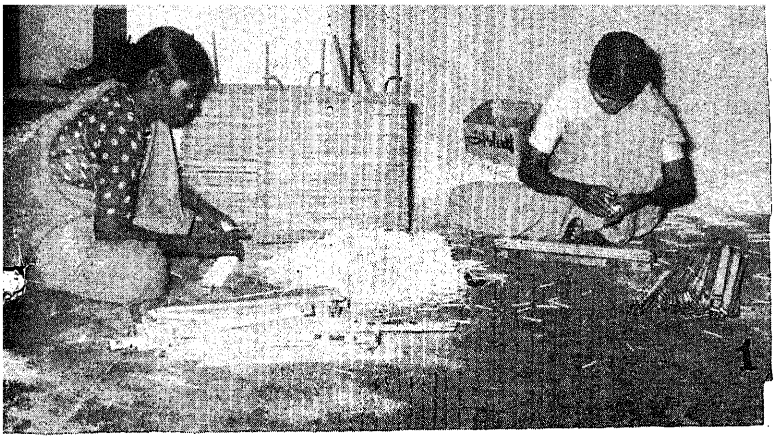
The splints and veneers cut to shape are received from Malabar. (The Government have lately sanctioned the establishment of a factory for the production of splints and veneers at Tiruvottiyur.) The splints and veneers are issued by weight for filling in frames and for making into boxes at home by workers. The filled up frames are then dipped into paraffin and later into the igniting compound and left in stands to dry. The laden match-sticks are then put into boxes in the factory premises sealed with Excise duty label and packed in gross packages. The operatiors are so arranged that only the minimum number of workers need be employed to work inside the factory. The piece-rate is also so fixed that a normal worker during the course of her house-hold duties can earn about 14 annas per day. The workers employed for work inside the factory are also paid on the basis of work turned out. In an 8 hour day a normal worker can earn one rupee. Workers are obliged to collect the materials for their work from the factory and they are expected to live within easy reach of the factory. Three hand-operated chemical grinders and a paper cutter are the only machines in this factory and not more than 50 of the 850 workers on its rolls will be men. By all possible means, the overhead charges are kept at the bare minimum. The accounting and audit are to be carried out on the basis of a State Trading Scheme. The Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 3,62,000 and a grant of Rs. 1 lakh to meet the expenditure on this scheme.

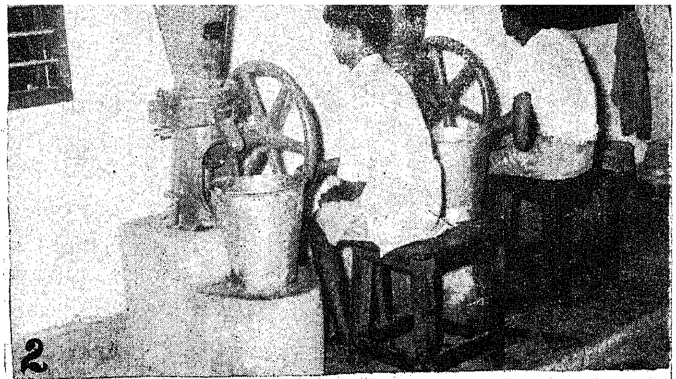
(Continued from page 4)

and public life, that they would truly be an example for others to follow and emulate.

Welcome to New Governor.

I should like, before I close, to extend on your behalf and on mine, a most hearty welcome to my successor Shri A. J. John and his wife. Mr. John will assume the Governorship of the State soon after I have left to-morrow. In him, you will find a true friend and a sure guide. He is a person of great piety, and comes with a fine record of public service and high reputation for efficient administration. I am sure you will extend to him the same active co-operation that it has pleased you to give to me. Mrs. John will doubtless be a source of great help and encouragement to the social service work in the State. My heart will always be with you wherever I might be. My gratitude will be great to you for all that I have received from you. My services will always be at your disposal, whenever you might call for them; and as I depart, I offer my warmest good wishes for the health and happiness of the State, the Government and every single citizen of Madras. May you every help in the upholding of the Liberty of the country, and maintaining its Unity for all time to come. Jai Hind"





8 - JAN 1957

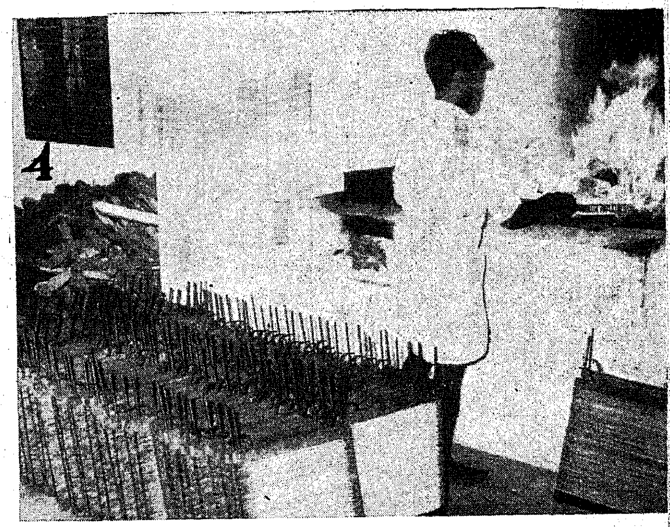
(1) *Cut sticks filled in frames.*

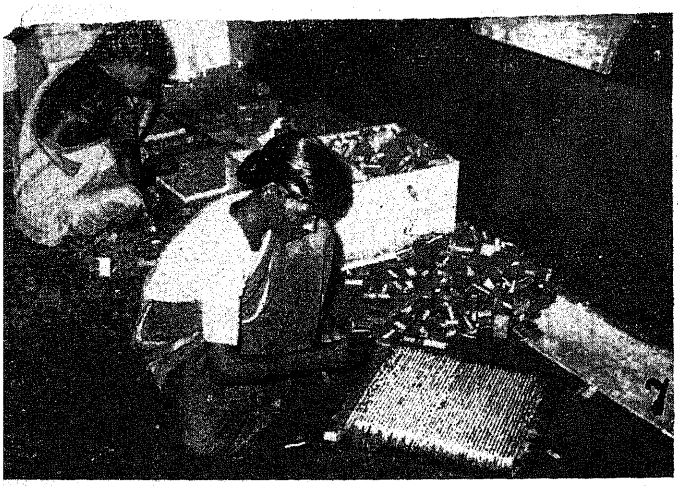
(2) *Chemical grinding.*

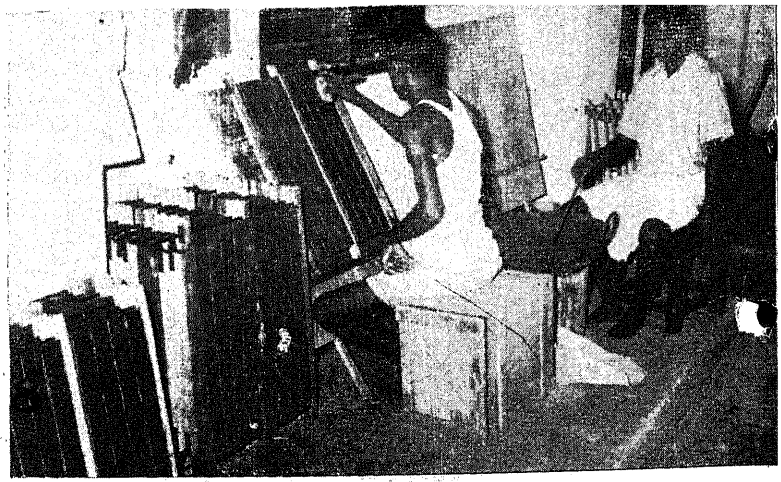
(3) *and* (4) *Frames are set and dipped in paraffin.*

(5) *Paraffin coated frames are dipped in chemical.*

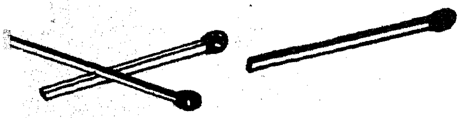
(6) *Chemical dipped frames are left in stands to dry.*







6 - JAN 1957



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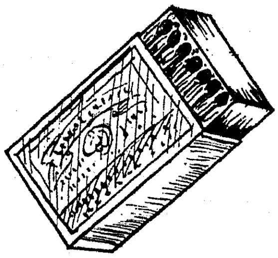
(7) *Box filling.*

(8) *Boxes are being coated with igniting chemicals.*

(9) *Pasting excise labels.*

(10) *Packing in dozens.*

(11) *Gross packing.*



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Serial number and name of village.	*Taluk.*	*District.*
	Mettur Electricity System—cont.	
21 Melmalayanoor	Gingee	South Arcot.
22 Jagiri Thandalam	Arkonam	North Arcot.
23 Kandigai	Do.	Do.
	Papanasam Electricity System.	
1 Kumaram	Nilakottai	Madurai.
2 Maniyanchi	Do.	Do.
3 Kottakudi	Melur	Do.
4 Nalukulam	Do.	Do.
5 Arasappanpatti	Nilakottai ..	Do.
6 Errampatti	Do. ..	Do.
7 Keela Chinnampatti	Do. ..	Do.
8 Sikkampatti	Tirumangalam ..	Do.
9 Nagiahpuram	Do. ..	Do.
10 Poochampatti	Nilakottai	Do.
11 Keelayur	Melur	Do.
12 Sankaralingapuram	Sattur	Ramanathapuram.
13 Koilpatti	Do.	Do.
14 Kattanarpatti	Do.	Do.
15 Muthulapuram	Do.	Do.
16 Anaiyur	Do.	Do.
17 Maraneri	Do.	Do.
18 Vilampatti	Do.	Do.
19 Sippiparai	Do.	Do.
20 Kunnur	Srivilliputhur ..	Do.
21 K. Pacheri	Do. ..	Do.
22 Pudur	Do. ..	Do.
23 Kallaurani	Aruppukottai ..	Do.
24 Viswanathaperi	Sankarankoil ..	Tirunelveli.
25 Sivagiri	Do. ..	Do.
26 Nangalaputhupatti	Do. ..	Do.
27 Sayamalai	Do. ..	Do.
28 Valasaipatti	Do. ..	Do.
29 Patcheri	Do. ..	Do.
30 Chidambarapuram	Do. ..	Do.
31 Malayadikurichi	Do. ..	Do.
	Madras Electricity System.	
1 Akkarambedu	Ponneri	Chingleput.
2 Ayalcheri	Tiruvellore ..	Do.
3 Chinnakayapakkam	Madurantakam ..	Do.
4 Devanur	Do. ..	Do.
5 Kalanipakkam	Chingleput ..	Do.
6 Kilampakkam	Do. ..	Do.
7 Koilpadagai	Saidapet	Do.
8 Malayambakkam	Sriperumbudur ..	Do.
9 Melapattu	Chingleput ..	Do.
10 Murichambedu	Ponneri ..	Do.
11 Narayanapuram	Saidapet	Do.
12 Palamittur	Maduranthakam ..	Do.
13 Pallikarani	Saidapet	Do.
14 Poorivakkam	Tiruvellore ..	Do.
15 Pudukuppam	Do. ..	Do.
16 Santhanakuppam	Chingleput	Do.
17 Thaiyur	Do.	Do.
18 Vazhuthalambedu	Saidapet	Do.
19 Vengavasal	Do.	Do.
20 Villivalam	Maduranthakam ..	Do.

Military Nurses Benevolent Fund

A Fund known as the Military Nurses Benevolent Fund exists. The Fund is administered as a Sub-fund of the Armed Forces Benevolent Fund of which the Secretary, Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board, is the Secretary. The Fund was originally constituted out of a donation from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund and has a capital of Rs. 1,98,000. All members, regular and temporary of the Military Nursing Service, civilian sisters and probationer-nurses—who served or serving and daughters of the above, if desirous of help for obtaining a nursing qualification with a view to assisting the Military Nursing Service, are eligible for assistance from the Fund. Monthly grants not exceeding Rs. 30 for a period of one year in the first instance and lump-sum grants not exceeding Rs. 150 are allowable under the existing rules for alleviation of economic distress and as stipends for obtaining a nursing qualification.

Since the inception of the Fund, a sum of Rs. 11,000 approximately has been spent on the purposes of the Fund. Thus, even the interest, which the Fund earns, is not being utilised completely at present. It is felt that one reason why the demand on the Fund is not greater is that the existence of this Fund is probably not known to its beneficiaries and perhaps to the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Boards also.

The total amount of loans sanctioned to various State Governments since the inception of the Scheme in November 1954 is Rs. 1,296 lakhs.

* * *

The area under rice cultivation in India during 1956–57 according to first estimates is 68,889,000 acres as against 65,742,000 acres, during 1955–56. This shows an increase of 3,147,000 acres or 4·8 per cent over last year.

* * *

The Government have sanctioned the establishment of a Fisheries Technological-*cum*-Biological Station at Tuticorin and the station has started functioning from November 15, 1956.

(*Continued from page* 25)

State Governments in the proportion of 25 per cent grant and 50 per cent loan from Delhi, and 25 per cent grant from the Madras Government. The State Government further directed that during 1956-57 to start with, the slums on Government lands lying south of the river Cooum may be taken up on hand by the Trust.

On the representation of the Trust, that to gather statistics after socio-economic and physical surveys, and to prepare specific estimates for developing the land with all amenities, a temporary special staff will be necessary for a few months, the State Government kindly sanctioned an *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 7,000 to the Trust, and the preliminary work has been put on hand vigorously in August 1956. Therefore, at long last, the ' Gordian knot ' has been cut, and a small but significant beginning has been made to grapple with this most pressing social problem in Madras in our Socialist Era. It is confidently expected that beginning from 1956-57, funds will be made available year by year, during the second and subsequent five-year plans, to the Trust and the Corporation to the tune of at least Rs. 20 and Rs. 40 lakhs respectively, so that these 320 festering sores on the face of this beautiful City are made to disappear, one by one, in the course of six or seven years if not ten, thereby raising the sum total of human happiness alround. As a subsidiary to the above slum improvement problem, most of which will be dealt with only on the lines recommended by the Union Government, i.e., giving plots (with all amenities) of at least 800 square feet per slum-dwelling family, with help by way of hut-construction materials for about Rs. 120 and cash of Rs. 30 per family. Trustees felt that, at least in some crowded and costlier localities, where physically it may not be possible to give such spacious plots, *pucca* tenements could be constructed and rented out or sold on instalment system to slum-dwelling families. During 1954-55, 80 such families of Cox Cheri (now known as Cox Colony) were rehabilitated in 80 *pucca* tenements with amenities.

During the year, the State Government sanctioned a loan of Rs. one lakh, which is being utilised, after some initial opposition from some slum-dwellers due to ignorance was overcome in constructing seventy *pucca* tenements in single, double and four in one units in C.I.T. Nagar, behind the office of the Trust. With the consent of the slum-dwelling families who have already been rehabilitated there, these *pucca* houses with all amenities are being substituted for their huts on Government land which the Trust is prohibited from selling. About 30 of the 70 houses have already been constructed and reasonably cheap rent will be fixed for them. The State Government have since proposed to give another similar loan of Rs. one lakh for seventy more low-cost houses in 1956-57 also.

Research in Low-Cost Housing

As during the past years, the Trust continued to carry out research in low-cost housing and allied matters. Several forms of membrane roofing, both in plain cement concrete and in reinforced cement concrete such as the catenary, conoid, paraboloid, etc., were developed, and some specimens have also been tested to breaking load. Articles by the Trust Engineer describing the different types of membrances have been accepted for publication both in India and abroad. Besides such fundamental research, work has also been done on providing more accommodation in low-cost houses with attractive prices. The work done in the development of a hutment, suitable for the men in the Police Force, is of particular interest under this category. " The Architectural Forum (April 1956)" published the Trust's comments on the design of the Hyperbolic Paraboloid in the " Letters to the Editor column" One Mr. Eduardo F. Catalano, Head of the Department of Architecture, Carolina State College, U.S.A., showed considerable interest in the work done by the Trust in this field, and asked for further details for publication in a paper under preparation by him. The relevent particulars have been sent to him.

If the State and the Union Governments continue to give financial backing to the City Improvement Trust as during the year under review, and utilise it as their compact tool and agent for certain ear-marked works, it can be expected confidently that the Trust will continue to function effectively and fully to the benefit of the poorer sections and the lower middle classes in Madras City.

How Many And How Much ?

Rupees 1,376·04 lakhs were paid as salaries and pension during 1955–56 to Government servants in the Madras State.

On the last day of March 1956, there were 182,076 Government servants throughout the State and this included 40 I.C.S. officers, 65 I.A.S. officers, 60 other All-India Services, 79 Higher Judicial and Criminel Judicial Services and 3,765 other State Services.

118,160 posts were held in Ministerial and Superior services and 59,897 posts were held under village establishments.

The break up figures of salaries are Rs. 178·13 lakhs for higher services, Rs. 927·77 lakhs for Subordinate Ministerial services and Rs. 95·45 lakhs for village establishments.

There were 27,506 persons on the pension roll who claimed Rs. 174·69 lakhs during 1955–56.

Madras share in Union Taxes

The Finance Commission constituted by the order of the President on 1st June 1956, have submitted interim recommendations in respect of the financial year 1957-58, with regard to the distribution of income-tax, Estate Duty, and Union Excises among various States.

Fifty-five per cent of the net proceeds of taxes on income is recommended for distribution among the States and Madras will get 7·95 per cent of the assigned amount. For the distribution of the net proceeds of the Estate Duty the same percentage has been recommended.

The recommendations have been accepted by Government of India and will be implemented.